



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.            | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 10/664,302   | 09/16/2003  | Richard Farbaniec    | O-3795/1086.015C               | 4338             |
| 7590 04/15/2004  |             |                      |                                |                  |
| Sampson & Associates, P.C.<br>50 Congress Street<br>Boston, MA 02109 |             |                      | EXAMINER<br>FOOTLAND, LENARD A |                  |
|  |             |                      | ART UNIT                       | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 3682                           |                  |

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/664,302

**Applicant(s)**

FARBANIEC ET AL.

**Examiner**

Lenard A. Footland

**Art Unit**

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

Art Unit: 3682

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I: Claim 24, drawn to a combination roller and bearing classified in Class 492.

Group II: Claims 1-23, drawn to a bearing subcombination, classified in Class 384, subclass 276.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination (see evidence claim 24) does not require fluoropolymers (see evidence claim 6). The subcombination has separate utility such as in a fan.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Art Unit: 3682

IN THE EVENT THE SUBCOMBINATION INVENTION IS ELECTED,  
THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE-PROCESS RESTRICTION IS ALSO  
REQUIRED:

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under  
35 U.S.C. 121:

Group III: Claims 1-20, 22-23 drawn to a bearing, classified in  
Class 384, subclass 276.

Group IV: Claim 21, drawn to a process of making a bearing,  
classified in Class 29, subclass 898+.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the  
following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as process of making and  
product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the  
following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used  
to make an other and materially different product or (2) that the  
product as claimed can be made by another and materially different  
process (M.P.E.P. § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product as  
claimed can be made by another and materially different process,  
for example, a process of vapor desposition of the lubricious film.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given  
above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by  
their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as  
indicated is proper.

IN THE EVENT THE BEARING INVENTION IS ELECTED, THE FOLLOWING SPECIES RESTRICTION IS ALSO REQUIRED:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: the species of Figure(s) 1-3 versus that of Fig(s). 4.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, AND A LISTING OF **ALL** CLAIMS READABLE THEREON (**NOT**, FOR EXAMPLE, "AT LEAST CLAIMS..."), INCLUDING **ANY CLAIMS SUBSEQUENTLY ADDED**, AND IF THE AMENDMENT OF ANY CLAIMS RESULTS IN A CHANGE OF THE SPECIES THEY READ UPON, THAT TOO SHOULD BE INDICATED. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN A HOLDING OF **NONRESPONSIVENESS**. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141. If claims

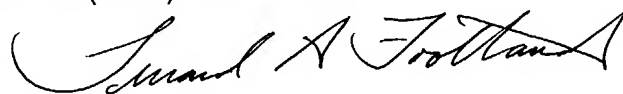
Art Unit: 3682

are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. M.P.E.P. § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

The elected species is limited to the features set forth in the elected figures, and does not include features not illustrated in those figures, or illustrated in other figures. Accordingly, applicant should review all claims to ensure that all features of the elected species are properly illustrated, as required, in order to avoid a holding that an unillustrated feature does not form part of the elected species.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lenard A. Footland, whose telephone number is (703) 308-2683.



**Lenard A. Footland**

**Primary Examiner**

**Technology Center 3600**

**Art Unit 3682**

laf

April 13, 2004